

## Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Marian Bell Fairchild, from February 15, 1901, to February 22, 1901

209 1901, February 15. Daidums Birthday. At V. B. A FEW JOKES FOR DAIDUMSAN.

The three states of matrimony as described by a school boy. Where a man marries several wives, that is "polygamy"; where a woman has several husbands, that is "polyandry"; and where a man has only one wife, that is "Monotony"

If you were to examine a dog's lungs by the X rays, what would you see?

The seat of his pants.

A visitor at Atlantic City to his friend: —

"That girl is one of the daughters of the Revolution".

"Why, she is a negress, how can that be?"

"Oh, her father is the proprietor of the Merry-go-round".

A lady had been brought near to death's door by typhoid fever, and her little nephew admitted to the room was much amused at her changed appearance.

"Oh, Auntie", he said "You look as if you had swallowed a skeleton too big for you.

Volta Bureau, Feb. 22, 1901. My dear Daisy: —

I am troubled about your mother, and have sent her a cablegram to the following effect  
FEMELLA.

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Won't you please write and tell me all about her. She never fainted before in her life so far as I can remember, and there must be something wrong. I feel like throwing down everything and going right over to see for myself, because I don't feel confident that she will tell me — properly — how she is. Now do write me a good letter about that although it will be nearly a month before I get any reply to this. Don't mix your letter up with water condensation. Let your letters about water condensation relate to that and that only, because I wish to preserve your letters in connection with my own as a part of the history of the development of an idea.

In my last contribution to the subject I failed to reply to some points in your letter of the 25th ult. because they did not relate to the subject. I hope sometime to meet Mr. Scrader.

We in America here know very little about what is going on in France, and your note contained the first intimation to me that there was any law being passed over there for the abolishment of the religious congregations. As I don't know anything about the matter I cannot of course express an opinion. I am glad that you were in London at the time of the Queen's funeral.

What is the use of having Charles traveling with you all IF YOU DON'T MAKE USE OF HIM to secure accommodations in advance, tend to railroad matters and all that sort of thing. It makes me very uneasy to know that a large party — consisting of five ladies — could possibly leave London for the Continent — at a time when London was crowded with foreigners attending the Queen's funeral — and NOT SECURE accommodations ahead on the steamer across the channel.

I have always had considerable confidence in your judgment — AND YOU HAVE FAILED ME. The idea of having to take second class accommodations with first class tickets — and then for your Mama to have to remain on deck across the stormy channel without a cabin to go to! It makes me lose all confidence in you all — and what is the use of having Charles if you don't make use of him for just such occasions. I would never travel at any

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time with a party of ladies without making all the arrangements ahead. — Not only for accommodations en route — but for hotel accommodations, &c., at the other end of the journey. At such a time as the Queen's funeral everything should have been arranged DAYS BEFORE. I feel that this negligence — of somebody's — is responsible for your Mamma's illness — and I am more disturbed about it than I can tell you: Because — what has been — may be again; and what may be again probably WILL BE.

Aileen has just come in and she is going for me. She says it is not Daisy's fault at all, and Miss Safford rises up in indignation and says “I won't send this letter.

Well, my dear, I don't know that it is your fault. But all the same I feel disturbed about it, and want to GO for somebody — and not knowing who is responsible and not daring to go for your mother and your grandmother — I have to let myself out on you.

After all, I suppose it was THE CAT. Well, let it be.

I have written to Mr. Atwater to the following effect: —

“Will you kindly let me know where I can obtain particulars concerning the German officer you told me about, who was killed at the battle of Sand River”.

Will let you know the result when I hear.

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I don't wonder that you did not understand the last part of “Home Notes” letter, beginning p. 139 to 141. You say “I don't understand it at all”. Well, I will tell you a secret. We don't either. So I won't undertake to explain it to you. I hope you will hunt up the articles on the liquifaction of gases and see if you can suggest some mode of cooling aqueous vapor based upon the processes described.

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Now I will enclose with this some further thoughts concerning the atmosphere of aqueous vapor, or rather, I should say, of "water gas" (how's that) — that exists — with consequences regarding rainfall.

Won't you please in writing to me also make your notes concerning water — gas entirely separate from any other matters so that I can have Miss Safford typewrite them and press copy them along with my own notes on the subject.

Your loving father Alexander Graham Bell